

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN, BEN>](mailto:Ben.Washburn@FDA.HHS.gov)
To: ["R7 Daily Digest" <Group>](#)
CC:
Date: 9/12/2014 2:40:31 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 9/12/14

OPA Daily Digest for 9/12/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb.) – Phone inquiry – 9/9/14: Questions about water systems on Indian lands. Due: 9/11/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) – Email – 9/5/14: Deed restriction on contaminated property near the Missouri Electric Works site in Cape Girardeau. Due: 9/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Dave Loesback (Iowa) – Letter – 9/4/14: Redevelopment of former RCRA site Elkem Metals Company in Keokuk. Due: 9/19/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Bill Otto (Mo.) – Email – 9/11/14 – Email from Harvey Ferdman about when and why Bridgeton Landfill was placed on the NPL. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Greenwire – Tiffany Stecker – 9/12/14: Follow-up questions for Karl Brooks profile piece/water interview. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Burlington Hawk Eye (Iowa) – Kathleen Finn – 9/2/14: Questions regarding Univar RCRA site. Contact: David Bryan, 7322 (open)

West Plains Daily Quill – Denise Vaughn – 9/9/14: Questions regarding issues with the Coastal Energy tank farm in Willow Springs, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

KCII Radio, Washington, Iowa – Nathan Swenson – 9/11/14: Questions about NPDES permit compliance issues for Twin County Dairy, Inc., of Kalona, Iowa. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

WHO Radio, Des Moines – Mark Dorenkamp – 9/12/14: Questions about EPA's registration of new nematicide. Referred to Cathy Milbourn at EPA headquarters. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Drover's CattleNetwork - Iowa creates plan to reduce pollution due to agricultural run-off - 9/11/14 - During the last week in August attention to the issue of water quality and the need to reduce the levels of nitrogen and phosphorus from entering US waterways moved from Ohio and the Chesapeake Bay to Iowa and its contribution to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/cattle-news/iowa-creates-plan-to-reduce-pollution-due-to-agricultural-run-off-274758301.html>

Ag Professional - Researchers developing nutrient, erosion management tools - 9/11/14 - Iowa State University researchers expect to unveil later this year a set of decision-making tools for best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and erosion/sediment losses. <http://www.agprofessional.com/news/Researchers-developing-nutrient-erosion-management-tools--274758351.html>

Iowa Public Radio - Aging Water Systems May Lead to Next "Water Revolution" (audio - 45:59) - 9/11/14 - In this episode of River to River, host Ben Kieffer hosts a discussion on outdated water systems and long-term planning to conserve money and environment down the road. <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/aging-water-systems-may-lead-next-water-revolution>

Agri-Pulse - Oil industry vs renewable fuels battle takes to the air – & gets political - 9/12/14 - The battle over renewable fuels has taken to the air. The American Petroleum Institute (API) picked 9/11 to launch the first strike. The API ads urge consumers to “Tell President Obama to stop playing politics and fix the RFS.” <http://www.agri-pulse.com/Oil-industry-renewable-fuels-battle-takes-9-12-2014.doc.asp>

EnergyWire - Mo. Supreme Court to hear arguments in solar dispute - 9/11/14 - Missouri's highest court is set to hear next week a last-ditch appeal to help jump-start the rooftop solar business in the state's southwest corner. <http://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060005600>

Iowa City Press-Citizen - Kalona Cheese Factory future uncertain - 9/11/14 - The future of Kalona's Twin County Dairy Inc., also known as the Kalona Cheese Factory, is murky. He said many dairies in the nation have consolidated because of complications from changing federal standards on environmental measures and food safety. <http://www.press-citizen.com/story/news/local/2014/09/10/kalona-cheese-factory-future-uncertain/15417367/>

Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Gazette (Iowa) - Kalona Cheese Factory to stop churning - 9/12/14 - The cheese factory near Kalona will no longer produce its well-known “squeaky” fresh cheese curds. Officials announced Thursday Twin County Dairy Inc. — also known as the Kalona Cheese Factory — has closed its production facility. <http://thegazette.com/subject/news/kalona-cheese-factory-to-stop-churning-20140911>

KCI Radio, Washington, Iowa - Kalona Cheese Producer Officially Closes - 9/12/14 - Kevin Baskins with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources says the facility has environmental violations dating back to the 1990s. Baskins adds the case was turned over to the Environmental Protection Agency, who was already taking enforcement action. <http://kciiradio.com/2014/09/kalona-business-officially-closed/>

Midwest Energy News - How ‘ESP’ is helping Kansas City become an efficiency leader - 9/12/14 - When cooled air is being pushed into an empty room in Kansas City’s health department or City Hall, odds are good that word will quickly reach the people who oversee such matters – and that they’ll get it stopped in short order. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/09/12/how-esp-is-helping-kansas-city-become-an-efficiency-leader/>

KWWL (Waterloo, Iowa) - Cedar Falls: Avoid Cedar River due to infected water - 9/11/14 - The City of Cedar Falls says people should avoid the Cedar River south of the water reclamation facility after the ultra-violet disinfection system failed early Thursday afternoon. <http://www.kwwl.com/story/26512262/2014/09/11/cedar-falls-avoid-cedar-river-due-to-infected-water>

Spencer Daily Reporter - Livestock expansion near Horseshoe Bend draws passionate discussion - 9/11/14 - The Dickinson County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday scheduled round two of a manure management plan public hearing for livestock expansion in the area of Horseshoe Bend.
<http://www.spencedailyreporter.com/story/2117929.html>

Huffington Post - Senators Argue 4 Months Not Enough Time To Comment On EPA Carbon Rules - 9/11/14 - A majority of the Senate wants the Environmental Protection Agency to extend the time for the public to comment on draft rules, released in June, that would limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/11/senate-epa-carbon-rules_n_5805552.html

Associated Press - DNR: Iowa fish kill linked to dairy operation - 9/11/14 - A large fish kill in northwest Iowa was caused by a manure spill from a nearby dairy operation, state officials announced Thursday. <http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/science/article/DNR-Iowa-fish-kill-linked-to-dairy-operation-5749201.php>

WHO-TV Ch. 13, Des Moines - AGRIBUSINESS: House Rejects EPA Proposal But Bill Won't Get To Senate – 9/12/14 - On September 9, the U.S. House passed a bill rejecting a proposal from EPA to clarify its role in regulating waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act. Supporters of the proposed EPA rule, such as the Obama Administration, argue clarity is sorely needed, while opponents like Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley call the proposal a “power grab.”
<http://whotv.com/2014/09/12/agribusiness-house-rejects-epa-proposal-but-bill-wont-get-to-senate/>

Lake News Online - Sunrise Beach water system increase approved - 9/11/14 - Sunrise officials are estimating a timeline of 18 months to two years to get phase three of its drinking water system in the ground after a plan amendment to increase the overall project was approved in August by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.
<http://www.lakenewsonline.com/article/20140911/News/140919792>

The Hill - Oil lobby: Iowa politics behind Obama's ethanol moves – 9/12/14 - Prominent oil lobby the American Petroleum Institute (API) said the Obama administration will likely boost the amount of biofuels refiners must blend into the nation's fuel supply to help out a Democrat in a tight Senate race.
<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/217508-oil-lobby-iowa-politics-behind-obamas-ethanol-moves>

Bloomberg News - Oil group says Iowa Senate race motivates Obama - 9/12/14 - An oil industry group has complained that the Obama administration is considering a boost in the U.S. mandate for using renewable fuels to help a Democrat locked in a tight race for a U.S. Senate seat from Iowa.
<http://politicsinminnesota.com/2014/09/oil-group-says-iowa-senate-race-motivates-obama/>

The Hill - EPA faces '14 accusations on ethanol - 9/12/14 - The American Petroleum Institute and renewable energy groups are furious with the Environmental Protection Agency for “playing politics” with the nation’s ethanol mandate. <http://thehill.com/regulation/energy-environment/217548-epa-faces-accusations-on-ethanol-standard>

The Gazette, Cedar Falls, Iowa - With a break looming, Iowa’s legislators in Washington still have issues – 9/12/14 - The last few weeks of work for Congress before a break are shaping up to be both brief and busy — and not boring. And Iowa’s senators, Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin, have items they want to check off their to-do lists.
<http://thegazette.com/subject/news/unfinished-business-20140912#Bks8MekKk0fM590Z.99>

Lincoln Journal-Star - Farm and Food: Water always runs downhill - 9/12/14 - An example of democracy’s messiness today is the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed Waters of the U.S. rule, or WOTUS. Offered on March 25 by EPA to address court-ordered changes in the decades-old Clean Water Act, WOTUS has become a leather-lunged political test for shouters, connivers and liars over what the proposed rules will or will not do on American farm and ranches.

http://journalstar.com/business/local/farm-and-food-water-always-runs-downhill/article_169f7d68-27a7-5752-b524-ab70b50d7212.html

Reuters - Pesticides a concern for aquatic life in most U.S. urban streams – 9/12/14 - The proportion of urban streams in the United States with potentially worrisome levels of pesticides for aquatic life has surged to 90 percent, a two-decade government study said on Thursday. <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-usa-environment-pesticides-idUKKBN0H62AG20140911>

AgriNews - Country's first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant is in business – 9/12/14 - POET-DSM Advanced Biofuels LLC, a joint venture of Royal DSM and POET LLC, marked the grand opening of its first commercial cellulosic ethanol plant last week in Emmetsburg. The plant converts agricultural residue into renewable fuel. http://www.agrinews.com/news/iowa_news/country-s-first-commercial-scale-cellulosic-ethanol-plant-is-in/article_3402f0a3-9765-5281-bb86-02695c38990f.html

Politico - Clinton to talk nutrition — Environmentalists: USDA should reject dicamba crops – 9/12/14 - Former President Bill Clinton will be honoring 250 schools, a nonprofit and a company “for becoming healthier places” at an Alliance for a Healthier Generation Leaders Summit event this evening. <http://www.politico.com/morningagriculture/0914/morningagriculture15275.html>

Huffington Post - As Climate Change Hits Home, Americans Call for Action – 9/12/14 - The World Meteorological Organization announced this week that climate change pollution has reached record levels. Carbon pollution alone -- one of the most potent greenhouse gases -- had its biggest spike in 30 years. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/frances-beinecke/as-climate-change-hits-ho_b_5804570.html?utm_hp_ref=green

Think Progress - Fifteen Governors Think EPA’s Carbon Rule For Old Power Plants Is Illegal – 9/12/14 - As far as fifteen Republican governors are concerned, federal efforts to cut carbon emissions from power plants aren’t just unwise — they’re illegal. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/09/11/3566339/governors-letter-epa-carbon/>
Greenwire - Murky buyout strategy has some employees fretting - 9/11/14 - U.S. EPA staffers are still waiting for details about the next round of agency buyouts, and some employees are getting anxious, according to union officials. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005663/>

Bloomberg Businessweek - Clean-Air Rules Revive Demand for Dirty Coal - 9/11/14 - The dirtiest coal in the U.S. is becoming popular again. Now that more of their power plants can remove toxins such as sulfur dioxide (SO₂), utilities are buying coal with the highest levels of pollutants after abandoning it decades ago in favor of cleaner-burning varieties. <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-09-11/dirty-coal-demand-rises-thanks-to-clean-air-rules>

Biofuels Digest - US Water designs ethanol filter to remove potential sulfate - 9/12/14 - In Minnesota, U.S. Water has introduced an ethanol filter designed to remove sulfate from final ethanol products, as well as to address color, turbidity, acidity, pH, chloride and iron. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2014/09/12/us-water-designs-ethanol-filter-to-remove-potential-sulfate/>

SNL - Battle joined over cooling water intake rule as utilities take EPA to court - 9/10/14 - A group of energy companies and electric utility trade associations filed a challenge to the U.S. EPA's cooling water intake rule in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit on Sept. 5, according to court documents. <http://www.snl.com/InteractiveX/Article.aspx?cdid=A-29173667-13091>

The Hill - Greens sue feds for Keystone docs - 9/9/14 - The Center for Biological Diversity sued the Obama administration on Tuesday to release documents surrounding the controversial Keystone XL pipeline. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/217142-greens-sue-feds-for-keystone-docs>

New York Times - Pesticide Levels in Waterways Have Dropped, Reducing the Risks to Humans - 9/11/14 - The development of safer pesticides and legal restrictions on their use have sharply reduced the risk to humans from pesticide-tainted rivers and streams, while the potential risk to aquatic life in urban waters has risen, according to

a two-decade survey published on Thursday. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/12/us/pesticide-levels-in-waterways-have-dropped-reducing-the-risks-to-humans.html>

Planet Ark - Pesticides a concern for aquatic life in most U.S. urban streams: study - 9/12/14 - Some of the more than 500 million pounds (220 million kg) of pesticides used yearly in the United States are concentrated at levels that pose a concern for fish and water-dwelling insects, the U.S. Geological Survey report on pesticides from 1992 to 2011 said. The levels seldom topped human health standards. <http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/72175>

Greenwire - Union calls for civil rights probe into 'blatant discrimination' - 9/12/14 - Green power programs on the rise in both red and blue states -- report - 9/12/14 - Energy policy has divided lawmakers in Congress along party lines, but outside of the Beltway, both right- and left-leaning states are pursuing clean power projects in the absence of action from the federal government, a new report shows. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005740/>

Climatewire - Saving the ozone layer, a 'five-act drama,' sees some success - 9/11/14 - The atmosphere's ozone layer, which protects people from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, is on track to recover as nations are successfully phasing out the ozone-depleting chemicals used in refrigeration, air conditioning and other technologies, the United Nations said yesterday. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060005629/>

Greenwire - EPA floats changes to state monitoring requirements - 9/11/14 - U.S. EPA has proposed a package of changes to the requirements for states to monitor concentrations of pollutants in the air. EPA said the proposed rule would reduce data reporting burdens as well as address new monitoring technology that has become available in the last several years. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005661/>

Greenwire - Regulators, utilities urge EPA to strike 2020 emissions target - 9/11/14 - Some utilities and state regulators are trying to persuade U.S. EPA to scrap 2020 interim targets in its proposed climate change rule for power plants in favor of less-formal "check-in" obligations that would let states gradually ramp up to their final 2030 emission targets. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005659/>

Greenwire - Murky buyout strategy has some employees fretting - 9/11/14 - U.S. EPA staffers are still waiting for details about the next round of agency buyouts, and some employees are getting anxious, according to union officials. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005663/>

Greenwire - EPA proposes 14 areas as not complying with particulate limits - 9/11/14 - U.S. EPA has proposed designating 14 areas in six states as out of compliance with the 2012 pollution standard for airborne fine particulates as the agency works toward an end-of-year listing deadline. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005651/>

BNA - Supreme Court Clean Air Act Jurisprudence in the 2013-14 Term: Cooperative Federalism and Agency Authority - 9/11/14 - The Supreme Court's latest term featured decisions on two fundamental issues for Clean Air Act litigation: the limits of Environmental Protection Agency authority over states and the role of cooperative federalism in air pollution control. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56189525&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5t9q3w7&split=0

BNA - Wastewater Utilities, Dairy Farmers Sign Agreement on Improving Water, Air Quality - 9/11/14 - Publicly owned wastewater utilities and dairy cooperatives have agreed to collaborate on water quality improvement by managing runoff and litter from livestock manure under a memorandum of understanding. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56189557&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5u1t6g1&split=0

BNA - Chemical Industry Adopting Green Principles Piecemeal; Carbon, Water Are Key Measures - 9/11/14 - Chemical manufacturers are implementing green chemistry principles and measuring their performance by reduced greenhouse gas emissions and water use, according to survey results compiled in a recently published paper. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56189542&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5u1k4f5&split=0

BNA - GAO Says Agencies, OMB Fail to Explain Basis for Deeming Regulations 'Significant' - 9/11/14 - Federal agencies and the Office of Management and Budget should be more transparent in explaining how they deem a regulation to be significant or not, the Government Accountability Office said in a report released Sept. 11.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56189549&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0f5u1m9y3&split=0

BNA - Nine in 10 Urban Streams Contain Pesticide Ingredients Above Benchmarks, USGS Finds - 9/11/14 - The number of urban streams that contain pesticide ingredients at levels that can harm aquatic life has jumped dramatically over the past 20 years, according to a study from the U.S. Geological Survey released Sept. 11.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56189538&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0f5u1g1n7&split=0

BNA - EPA Power Plant Proposal Could Fast-Track Natural Gas Pipeline Projects, S&P Says - 9/11/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency's recently proposed regulations for cutting carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's existing power plants could help fast-track construction of new natural gas pipelines, according to Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56189560&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0f5u6b3b7&split=0

BNA - Yale Researchers See Health Effects Uptick Near Natural Gas Drilling Sites - 9/11/14 - Individuals residing near "unconventional natural gas extraction" operations, like hydraulic fracturing wells, are more likely to report skin and upper respiratory problems than people living farther away, according to a new Yale University study.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56189556&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0f5u1t1y9&split=0

BNA - Environmental Groups Say DOT Should Be Required to Respond to DOT-111 Petition - 9/11/14 - The Transportation Department should be required to respond to a July petition that called for a ban of DOT-111 tank cars in the transportation of Bakken crude oil, three environmental groups said in a lawsuit filed Sept. 11.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56189550&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0f5u1n0u2&split=0

BNA - Study Says Existing State Policies Can Be Used to Comply With Power Plant Rules - 9/11/14 - A Stanford University report released Sept. 11 identified 12 state clean energy policies other states could include in plans needed to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to reduce carbon emissions from power plants. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=56189566&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0f5u6w9h4&split=0

Inside EPA - Children's Health Advisors Weigh Pushing EPA To Tighten Lead NAAQS - 9/11/14 - EPA children's health advisors are weighing whether to press the agency to strengthen its national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for lead. <http://insideepa.com/201409112481260/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/childrens-health-advisors-weigh-pushing-epa-to-tighten-lead-naaqs/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Doubting GHG Rules' Withdrawal, Critics Step Up Attacks Over Missing Data - 9/11/14 - Industry and other critics of EPA's greenhouse gas (GHG) rules for power plants are stepping up their efforts to have the agency withdraw the rules for allegedly lacking key technical data.
<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201409112481258/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/doubting-ghg-rules-withdrawal-critics-step-up-attacks-over-missing-data/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - FERC Commissioners Split Over NERC's Role In ESPS Reliability Debate - 9/11/14 - Two commissioners on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) are publicly at odds over what role the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the congressionally chartered group that aims to protect reliability.
<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201409112481334/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/ferc-commissioners-split-over-nercs-role-in-esps-reliability-debate/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Senate Readies For Vote On Renewable Taxes As Industry Seeks Reforms - 9/12/14 - The Senate is preparing to vote before the end of the year to extend a

package of tax credits deemed vital for the renewable energy sector. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201409122481372/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/senate-readies-for-vote-on-renewable-taxes-as-industry-seeks-reforms/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Appears Unreceptive To Industry Push For Ethylbenzene 'Mixture' Study - 9/12/14 - EPA staff is indicating the agency is unlikely to shift the focus of its upcoming assessment of the health risks of ethylbenzene from a single chemical focus to one that examines the chemical as part of a petroleum mixture.

<http://insideepa.com/201409122481370/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-appears-unreceptive-to-industry-push-for-ethylbenzene-mixture-study/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EAB Supports EPA Policy For Assessing Ozone 'Precursors' In Air Permits - 9/12/14 - EPA's Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) in a new ruling is defending the agency's policy of conducting Clean Air Act best available control technology (BACT) permit reviews for "precursor" ozone-forming pollutants individually rather than together. <http://insideepa.com/201409122481369/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/eab-supports-epa-policy-for-assessing-ozone-precursors-in-air-permits/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - API Urges EPA Against Raising Biofuels Target In 2014 RFS - 9/12/14 - The American Petroleum Institute (API) will meet soon with EPA and other administration officials to lobby against the agency raising its conventional biofuels quota . <http://insideepa.com/201409112481296/EPA-Blog/News-Briefs/api-urges-epa-against-raising-biofuels-target-in-2014-rfs/menu-id-97.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

9/14-17/14 – Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

9/30/14 – Midwest Energy Policy Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

10/2/14 – Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

10/4/14 – Iowa Sierra Club Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

***10/3/14** – Iowa Water Challenges Outreach Event with Brody Middle School, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

10/9/14 – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

10/10/14 – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/30/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

11/18/14 – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

DRA:

9/16/14 - Meet with Arthur Elkins, Office of Inspector General, Regional Office Contact: Renee McGhee-Lenart

10/7/14 - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

9/30/14 - 10/2/14 - Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Project Officer Training, Washington, D.C. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

9/30/14 – National EJ Coordinator’s Meeting in Washington, D.C. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

9/18/14 – Northeast Missouri Regional Hazmat Planning Meeting, Macon, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

9/19/14 – Missouri Emergency Response Commission Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

10/22/14 – Public Availability Session to discuss remedial action and the Five Year Review for the Parkview Well Site, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Brad Vann, 7611

WWPD

9/15-16/14 – State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group Pesticide Operations and Management Meeting, Arlington, Va. Contact: Jamie Green, 7139

9/15-17/14 – U.S. Water Alliance 2014 One Water Leadership Summit, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

9/18-19/14 – Shell Creek Watershed Planning Meeting, Platte Center, Neb. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

9/30-10/2/14 – North Central Region Water Network's Water Resource Management Conference, Bloomington, Minn. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

Wall Street Journal

Water Fight: House Republicans Take On EPA

By TENNILLE TRACY

9/10/14

If a ditch fills with rainwater – and nobody's around to see it – can it still be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency?

That's a question at the heart of a skirmish between EPA and House Republicans as the agency seeks to define which streams, wetlands, ditches, ponds and other water

bodies fall under its jurisdiction. Once classified as a “water of the U.S.,” the water body comes under EPA control and is subject to permits and restrictions under the Clean Water Act. Landowners, including farmers and ranchers, fear they’ll be unable to conduct routine activities on their properties without first obtaining potentially costly permits.

The House on Tuesday voted to block the EPA from moving forward on a proposal the agency released in April with the Army Corps of Engineers. The proposal sought to define a “water of the U.S.” that is then subject to the Clean Water Act.

The House passed the bill by a vote of 262 to 152. The mostly Republican contingent in favor of the measure said EPA was executing a power grab that would force landowners to get costly permits for routine activities.

“This is a massive federal jurisdiction grab,” said Rep. Bill Shuster (R., Pa.), chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The White House threatened to veto the House bill. It said that the measure “would sow more confusion and invite more conflict.”

The Senate is unlikely to follow the House’s lead as long as Democrats are calling the shots there. A bill introduced by Wyoming Republican John Barrasso has nearly 40 GOP co-sponsors but it has not moved out of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which is chaired by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) from California, the top producing agricultural state in the U.S.

The fate of Republican-led efforts to stop EPA could change if the Senate falls to the GOP after November. For now, it’s a messaging bill aimed at attacking the Obama administration.

House Republicans routinely assert that the EPA oversteps its bounds. Recently, they said the agency went too far when it crafted carbon dioxide standards for existing power plants. They argued Congress never intended for the EPA to tackle carbon dioxide emissions when it wrote the Clean Air Act.

The EPA is attempting to define a “water of the U.S.” after the Supreme Court tried to shape that definition – and created additional uncertainty – in a pair of cases from 2001 and 2006. The EPA says it is now attempting to resolve the “gray area.”

Concern is particularly acute among farmers, who fear they’ll have to get new government approvals for applying fertilizer or pesticides on dry channels of land that temporarily fill with water after heavy rains.

One part of the Clean Water Act requires landowners to get permits before putting pollutants in the water. The American Farm Bureau Federation said the permitting process could cost tens of thousands of dollars and delay time-sensitive work for farmers and ranchers.

“The EPA is not trying to regulate water. They’re trying to regulate [land] features,” says Don Parrish, a senior director at the farm bureau.

Defining EPA’s jurisdiction over water is more easily said than done. Just what exactly constitutes a tributary, for example, has been the source of considerable debate between EPA and landowners. Experts have resorted to using the dictionary in testimony before Congress.

The EPA recently released a map of water features that it compiled in the wake of the Supreme Court cases. The EPA says it has no intention of using the map to make jurisdictional decisions. But the overwhelming network of lines tracking rivers, streams and canals across the country raised the ire of Republicans.

Ken Kopocis, deputy assistant administrator of EPA's water office, says the agency is targeting waters that have a "significant" connection to a larger navigable body of water. The theory is, regardless of where it originated, pollution in a tributary heading downstream will eventually make it to a water body used for drinking water, fishing or recreation.

According to the EPA, about 60% of stream miles flow only after rain or during certain times of the year. More than 115 million people get drinking water from sources that rely in part on these streams.

The EPA says its proposal is modest in scope. Compared with current practices, it will result in a 3% increase in the number of cases where the agency determines a water body falls under its jurisdiction, the EPA says.

"We do not consider that to be an expansion of the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act," Mr. Kopocis said.

Mr. Parrish of the farm bureau says the EPA is dramatically underestimating its impact. He says the agency will have new oversight authority over millions of miles of streams. "Virtually all" farmers will be impacted, he said.